

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1

INCIDENT NO. 2004-059

DATE: May 12, 2004 Time 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** Spring Storms – On May 11-12, snow and ice storms with high winds caused power outages, loss of communications, hazardous travel and damage to trees with resulting debris problems.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. **DAMAGES:** On May 11-12, spring storms moved through the state, causing power outages due to snow and freezing rain, which accumulated on power lines and poles. Additionally, power outages were compounded when trees toppled onto power lines. Local officials indicated that rural residents who were without power sought refuge with family and friends.

Cavalier County Officials reported that over 1,000 customers of Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) who live in Cavalier and Ramsey Counties were without power. Of the 1,000 customers who were without power, 40 now have power, and by Saturday it is expected that an additional 400 customers will also have power. Cavalier REC employees expect full restoration power could take up to two weeks. Downed tree limbs and a power line blocked roadways in the City of Landgon. Munich school officials sent students home early May 12 due to power outages.

Mountrail County The emergency manager indicated that power outages occurred in about two-thirds of the county. The power began failing as early as 5:00 p.m. on May 11. The Mountrail-Williams REC reported at least 150 power poles have been damaged. A truck became entangled in power lines along Highway 8, which nearly caused an accident with another vehicle and a school bus.

Ward County The county emergency manager reported spot outages on a sporadic scale, affecting mostly rural areas. The Verendrye Electric Company is restoring power to affected areas.

4. **RESOURCES:**

LOCAL: Agencies providing assistance included the following: the emergency managers, the sheriff's departments, the city police departments, the county and city administrative offices, the communication departments and the public works departments.

STATE: Agencies monitoring storm conditions include the Governor's Office, the N.D. Division of Emergency Management (NDDEM), the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the N.D. Highway Patrol (HP).

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service provided weather analysis and forecasts.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** Travelers are assisting each other by removing vehicles from ditches.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: REC crews throughout the northern tier of the state are working to restore power. Public works crews are working to remove trees.

The Cavalier REC is flying over the power lines to assess the damages. One hundred power line poles are enroute from Minneapolis to replace damaged poles.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No outside assistance has been requested.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Johner Brothers Contracting employees are on scene assisting REC crews in Mountrail County.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director